

Southern Regional Research Laboratory
New Orleans 19, Louisiana
August 5, 1948

To: Director and Laboratory Staff
From: Survey and Appraisal Section, Cotton Processing Division
Subject SURVEY NOTES

FARM SITUATION

Prospects are favorable for another year of heavy crop production. In general, price adjustments to new crop conditions are likely to be small, except for feeds which will decline substantially if the corn crop is as much above last year as prospects indicate. Total economic activity in the nation continues at record levels, with unemployment lowest so far this year and consumer incomes rising because of third round wage rate increases.

Demand and Price Situation, BAE, July 9, 1948.

LINT COTTON

COTTON PRICES DECLINE; PRICING BASIS FOR RAYON CHANGED BY SOME CONCERN

Cotton prices have been declining with Middling 15/16-inch cotton down to 34.60 cents delivered to mills. Because of the Supreme Court decision on basing point price policies, DuPont and Industrial now sell rayon f.o.b. plant instead of delivered-at-mill. This would increase the price of DuPont viscose staple to the average Southern mill from 36 cents to probably around 37 cents, and would change the equivalent cost of rayon staple to about 32.9 cents. Since we do not know that American Viscose Corp., the largest rayon producer, has changed its pricing methods, the equivalent price of rayon staple in table 1 is unchanged. Mill margins for print cloth declined substantially from May to June.

Table 1.- Prices of raw cotton, rayon staple, and cotton fabrics, and cotton mill margins in cents.

| | July 29, 1948 | June 1948 | May 1948 | June 1947 | Average 1945 |
|--------------------------------|------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Cotton, Middling 15/16" | : | : | : | : | : |
| delivered at mills, lb..... | 34.60 | 38.53 | 38.91 | 38.93 | 23.76 |
| Rayon, viscose staple, | : | 4/ | : | : | : |
| equivalent price 1/, lb..... | 32.04 | 32.04 | 32.04 | 28.48 | 22.25 |
| Cotton fabrics, average | : | : | : | : | : |
| 17 constructions 2/..... | - | 77.33 | 80.54 | 83.34 | 43.21 |
| Mill margins 3/ | : | : | : | : | : |
| Average, 17 cotton fabrics...: | - | 40.84 | 43.22 | 46.46 | 20.86 |
| Average, 6 print cloths....: | - | 50.10 | 56.92 | 68.96 | 22.61 |
| Average, 3 sheetings.....: | - | 30.05 | 31.72 | 36.47 | 16.77 |
| Average, 4 drills.....: | - | 35.16 | 35.39 | 26.95 | 17.68 |
| Average, 2 ducks.....: | - | 30.52 | 29.65 | 28.17 | 19.85 |

1/ Cost to mill of same amount of usable fiber as supplied by one pound of cotton (rayon price x.89).

2/ Price of approximate quantity of cloth obtainable from a pound of cotton with adjustments for saleable wastes (Cotton Branch, PMA).

3/ Difference between cloth prices and prices (10-market average) of cotton assumed to be used in each kind of cloth (Cotton Branch, PMA).

4/ One company.

COTTON CONSUMPTION, MILL ACTIVITY DECLINES

Consumption of cotton per working day in June was off 5% from May, although the total for the month was higher. It appears that total consumption for the crop year ending July 31st will total 9,300,000 bales, as compared with 10,025,000 bales last season. Spindle activity fell off during June.

Table 2.- Cotton consumption and stocks, and spindle hours in cotton mills

| | June 1948 | May 1948 | April 1948 | June 1947 |
|--|--------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| Consumption, bales..... | 801,142 | 785,440 | 829,730 | 728,251 |
| On hand, 1000 bales..... | 3,415 | 4,239 | 5,056 | 2,906 |
| Active spindle hours, billions.... | 10.3 | 10.1 | 10.7 | 9.1 |
| Spindle activity, percent of 80-hour capacity 1/..... | 130.9 | 134.0 | 136.1 | 118.8 |

1/ Includes activity on fibers other than cotton, totaling from 0.6 to 0.7 billion spindle hours for each month shown.

From Census Reports.

WORLD COTTON CONSUMPTION STILL BELOW PREWAR

World cotton consumption was 7 million bales greater than world cotton production in 1946 and 3.5 million bales greater during the 1947 season just ended. Larger crops in the U. S. and elsewhere will close the gap to about 1 million bales this year with a definite upward trend in world cotton production now underway. World cotton consumption is still 2 million bales below prewar, although world population has increased by more than 140 million people.

E. D. White, Ninth Cotton Research Congress, Dallas, July 22-24, 1948.

LONG STAPLE IMPORT QUOTA RAISED

The import quota of long staple cotton, 1-1/8" to 1-11/16", was 45,656,420 pounds, but the President recently raised it to allow 18 million additional pounds to come in during the quota year ending September 19, 1948.

Weekly Cotton Market Review, July 23, 1948.

ACREAGE OF AMERICAN-EGYPTIAN COTTON INCREASES

Acreage of American-Egyptian cotton this year is 3,490 acres, compared with 1,500 acres last year and an average of 67,200 acres during 1937-46. Last year only 1,205 bales of this cotton were ginned.

Cotton Production, BAE, July 8, 1948

LONG STAPLE SEED STOCKPILED

The Department of Agriculture already has begun laying aside stocks of long staple seed of domestic origin, in response to a request from the Munitions Board. Any plans to stockpile Egyptian cotton are still a long way off, according to an official of the Board.

Daily News Record, July 27, 1948, p. 1.

COLOURED COTTON ABANDONED IN EGYPT

The Cultivation Department at the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture has definitely abandoned the idea of cultivating coloured cottons in Egypt. In 1946,

Abdel Ghaffer Bey Selim, director of the Cultivation Department, brought from the United States seeds for the cultivation of green cotton. These seeds were planted in Egypt, but after several tests, this attempt was still far from encouraging, the main obstacle being that both red (tested earlier) and green cotton had no resistance under strong sun and time. It was also found that its fiber was not strong and somewhat rough in comparison with other cottons.

Courtaulds Ltd., Fashion & Development Sect.,
May 11, 1948, Vol. 2 No. 34.

OUTPUT OF COTTON PICKERS CLIMBS

The International Harvester plant at Frayser, Tenn., has turned out almost 600 mechanical cotton pickers since it went into production several months ago, according to Adam Condo, Memphis works manager. In the first six or seven years after the picker was developed, International Harvester made only about 600, mostly by the hand method, he said. "This year," Mr. Condo stated, "we will have four or five times as many machines in the field than in any previous season."

Daily News Record, July 1, 1948, p. 22.

COTTONS HAVING MARKED INCREASE IN STRENGTH DEVELOPED AT TEXAS A. & M. COLLEGE

Texas A. & M. College has been named headquarters for a regional project on the genetics and improvement of cotton, in which Texas had joined with 5 other states and U.S.D.A. in a number of fundamental researches. Texas A. & M. also is developing an Institute of Cotton Biology. According to Dr. Stephens: "For the past twenty years evidence has steadily accumulated that the Upland cottons grown commercially in this country are closely related to the Asiatic cottons grown commercially in India and China, and also to some wild American shrubs—superficially not like cotton at all—which are found scattered along the Pacific slopes of North and South America. About fifteen years ago, it was suggested that the Asiatic cottons and the wild American shrubs had, in fact, hybridized in nature many thousands and possibly millions of years ago, and that our Upland cottons are descendants of the original hybrid. Finally, in 1940, the late Dr. Beasley, working at Texas A. & M., was able to confirm this suggestion by actually repeating in the laboratory what must have happened in nature. He synthesized an Upland-like cotton from a cross between present day Asiatic and wild American species.

Beasley's synthetic Upland was backcrossed to commercial Upland stocks, and it was found that many of the progenies had fiber strength enormously increased over anything previously known in cultivated cottons. (Doubling the strength was mentioned). Subsequent studies have shown that the strong fibers have narrow cross-sectional areas—a character introduced from the apparently worthless American shrub used by Beasley in the original cross. Beasley used only one of seven known American wild cottons. "These are definitely known to carry characters of potential economic value—fiber strength, disease-pest resistance, and deciduous bracts," as well as other unsuspected characteristics. Our problem, then, is to repeat Beasley's work with the six species at present unused, to obtain from them six different synthetic Upland types, and to introduce new characters from them into Upland breeding material. Such work is difficult because it requires tropical growing conditions, because female parents will not nourish the young embryo, and because

valuable characters frequently are associated with undesirable ones. "It appears, for instance, that we can get high yielding cotton, or cottons with great fiber strength."

Dr. T. R. Richmond and Dr. S. G. Stephens,
A. & M. College of Texas, before Ninth Cotton
Research Congress, Dallas, July 22-24, 1948.

In 1946, Cotton Belt farmers lost approximately \$370 million to insect pests, equivalent to 6 cents per harvested pound of cotton. The entomologists' dream of controlling all cotton insects with one insecticide, or combination of insecticides, apparently has been realized with a mixture of 3% gamma benzene hexachloride, 5% DDT plus 40% sulphur, and 20% chlorinated camphene plus 40% sulphur. These combinations are not "cure-alls" but are superior in many respects to older insecticides.

H. G. Johnston, A. & M. College of Texas, before
Ninth Cotton Research Congress, Dallas,
July 22-24, 1948.

COTTON TEXTILE MACHINERY AND INDUSTRY

LOUISIANA COTTON MILL PLANS ABANDONED

Plans of Evangeline Textile Mills to move a 25,000-spindle mill from Fort Worth to Redell, La., have been abandoned because the Louisiana group was able to raise only half of the \$400,000 necessary.

Daily News Record, July 13, 1948, p. 25.

H & B TO OUTFIT COTTON MILL IN PAKISTAN

H & B will outfit a complete cotton spinning mill, including 25,200 spindles, in Karachi, Pakistan on a \$1,500,000 contract. H & B will send workers to Pakistan and also will train a group from Pakistan in its own plant. Lockwood & Greene will build the plant, believed to be the first modern American mill in that country.

Daily News Record, July 21, 1948, p. 21.

NEW MACHINERY FOR DUST REMOVAL FROM COTTON ACCORDING TO DR. TOY

Recently developed machinery will result in the removal of thousands of tons of dust from raw cotton before it is baled, according to Dr. F. C. Toy, director of Shirley Institute. There are "startling developments in the removal of dust as result of research and the introduction of new machinery."

Daily News Record, July 15, 1948, p. 1.

FTC DISCUSSES MERGERS IN COTTON TEXTILE INDUSTRY

During 1940-46 inclusive, 164 cotton textile companies, involving 4.4 million spindles and 88,000 looms, or one-fifth of the industry's facilities, changed hands. Half of the spindles changing hand were involved in vertical integrations. About 18% of the mergers involved one cotton mill buying another, while one-third involved purchase of machinery by dealers for resale.

F.T.C. report to Congress, quoting Cotton Textile Institute figures, as discussed in Daily News Record, July 26, 1948, p. 22.

COTTON BLANKET PLANT TO BE BUILT IN PUERTO RICO

A new \$1,500,000 plant to produce cotton blankets in Puerto Rico for Beacon Manufacturing Company will be built this fall. The Puerto Rico Industrial Development Co. will advance \$700,000 for factory and site, while Beacon will spend \$800,000 for machinery and equipment. The factory will have room for 100 looms and will be able to handle 50,000 pounds of raw cotton weekly on its cotton jacquard line. Bulk of the \$5 million annual production will be marketed in continental U. S. Beacon expects to come under Puerto Rico's tax abatement legislation.

Daily News Record, July 20, 1948, p. 2.

COTTON PRODUCTS

BAGS: COTTON BAG PRICES DECLINE

Cotton and burlap bags are now substantially lower in price than a year ago (table 3).

Table 3.- Prices of new 100-lb. flour bags
(Dollars per thousand bags)

| New bags, St. Louis ^{1/} | July 1, 1948 | June 10, 1948 | July 1, 1947 | July 1, 1946 | July 1, 1945 |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Cotton..... | 236.25 | 242.50 | 296.00 | 193.75 | 166.25 |
| Burlap..... | 205.30 | 205.40 | 271.90 | 155.80 | 199.85 |
| Paper..... | 108.65 | 108.65 | 2/ | 2/ | 2/ |

^{1/} Cotton, 37" 4.00 sheeting cut 43"; burlap 36" 10 oz. cut 43"; paper, 18 x 4-1/2 x 36- 3/4", all l.c.l. shipments. From a large bag manufacturer.

^{2/} No data available.

TIRE FABRIC: SOME RAYON PRICES APPARENTLY DECLINE SLIGHTLY

Some of the quotations received for rayon tire fabric are slightly under one month ago. No quotations are now being received on cotton fabrics for truck tires.

Table 4.- Prices of cotton and rayon tires, June 1 and July 1, 1948

| Fabric | : Fabric | | Price per pound | | Price per sq. yd. | |
|---------------------|----------|--------------|-----------------|----------|-------------------|----------|
| | : Cord | : weight | : June 1 | : July 1 | : June 1 | : July 1 |
| | | : per sq.yd. | | | | |
| Passenger car tires | : | : Pounds | : Cents | : Cents | : Cents | : Cents |
| Cotton fabric..... | 12/4/2 | .86 | 76 | 76 | 65 | 65 |
| Rayon fabric..... | 1650/2 | .67 | 67 | 66 | 45 | 44 |
| Truck tires | : | : | : | : | : | : |
| Cotton fabric..... | 12/4/2 | .86 | 1/ | 1/ | 1/ | 1/ |
| Rayon fabric..... | 1100/2 | .54 | 68 | 66 | 37 | 36 |
| Rayon fabric..... | 2200/2 | .81 | 67 | 67 | 54 | 54 |

^{1/} No quotation received.

Based on reports from independent rubber companies for fabric constructions most heavily used.

COTTON PROPERTIES NEEDED IN TEXTILES DISCUSSED

The Government spinning test, as it is now, is concerned only with the skein strength of a warp twist yarn; it uses that as the basis of its measure of cotton quality. Of any one measure, it is probably the best, but it does not tell the whole story. Often the quality needed is not the highest warp strength. There are other factors in which certain mills are interested. A good broadcloth warp, for instance, should be soft and lustrous, of high regularity. If you are making a broadcloth, you are looking for those qualities as much as for strength. Hosiery yarn, too, needs these same qualities....

Predetermining the spinning characteristics of cotton
Prof. John F. Bogdan, N. C. State College School of
Textiles, Textile Bulletin, June 1948.

COMPETITIVE MATERIALS

ESTRON PROMOTED AS NAME FOR ACETATE FIBER

Tennessee Eastman has announced that it will use the name "estron" in referring to its acetate yarn and staple, and will advertise to educate users regarding differences between it and regenerated cellulose fibers.

Daily News Record, July 8, 1948, p. 1.

(An extensive advertising campaign is now being conducted)

NYLON STAPLE MARKETS DISCUSSED BY DUPONT OFFICIAL

Commercial evaluation of set-crimp nylon staple will be started within the next few weeks, according to Dr. L. L. Larsen, Nylon Division, DuPont. The crimp, which is set by heat, provides 20% more loft, and is being evaluated in sweaters and socks. Spun nylon was said to transpire moisture well and to handle perspiration like a worsted material. He discussed uses of nylon as follows:

Knitting yarns: Make possible Argyle socks of greater durability and washability.

Upholstery: Now used for Studebaker Landcruiser and for Greyhound buses. Combinations of spun and filament nylon and of nylon with viscose filaments have been developed. Fabrics can be washed without shrinkage.

Industrial Fabrics: Laundry press cover of nylon just reaching market. Laundry nets. Papermaker felts, 1/4 nylon, 3/4 wool, have 1-1/2 time life of all-wool, are durable, resist alkalies and mildew. Filter cloths have 5 to 15 times life of cotton.

Carpets: Accelerated test showed nylon carpets would undergo 300 million revolutions against 75 million for all-wool.

Tropicals, washables, of spun nylon and treated wool have been made experimentally. About 20% nylon will make possible lighter woolens and worsteds of increased durability.

Shirtings: 20% nylon with cotton almost doubles abrasion resistance. 25% with viscose gives wear and makes stabilized finishing easier.

Blankets: 35% nylon and wool summer blankets will wash without felting.

Curtains, shower curtains, waitresses' uniforms, also are being evaluated.

Daily News Record, July 13, 1948, p. 34.

PAPER: BEMIS MAKES NEW THREE PLY MATTRESS BAG

The Bemis Bro. Bag Co., St. Louis, has developed and is producing a new 3-ply mattress bag with a self-seal closing feature which eliminates tape sealing. It is made of heavy kraft paper, with a new self-sealing device consisting of two surfaces of latex adhesive which seal instantly and securely upon contact.

Journal of Commerce, July 19, 1948, p. 14.

PAPER: ST. REGIS NEW PAPER BAG FACILITIES NOW ENTERING FULL PRODUCTION

One of the largest integrated Kraft pulp, paper, and bag operations, involving the Alabama Pulp and Paper Co. and the Florida Pulp and Paper Co., both subsidiaries of St. Regis Paper Co., is rapidly swinging into top production at North Pensacola, Fla.. It has an output exceeding 450 tons of Kraft paper daily, sufficient to make 500 million multiwall bags annually, but for the time being, St. Regis' new bag plant there will produce 250 million multiwalls annually and a million 5- and 10-pound sugar bags daily. The bag plant is designed for continuous flow from receipt of rolls from the paper mill to loading the finished bags. The multiwall tubing machine will produce 250 multiwall tubes of cement bag size per minute.

Southern Pulp & Paper Manufacturers, June 15, 1948, p. 48.

(Output of paper shipping bags increased only slightly during 1947 over 1946, being held back by lack of capacity.)

RAYON: BEMBERG AND NARCO RAISE PRICES

Rayon yarn prices were raised about 10% in early July by American Bemberg Corp. and North American Rayon, following approval by the office of Alien Property. This permission was refused when the rest of the industry raised prices in January. The approval was given following submission of data showing "that both companies have recently been subjected to substantial cost increases beyond their control," etc.

Wall Street Journal, July 8, 1948, p. 8.

RAYON DRESS SHIRTS BEING PLACED ON MARKET

In a two-page advertisement in the Daily News Record, pages 18 and 19, July 12, 1948, Burlington Mills states that they "have developed some extra special rayon shirtings" with which "the shirt industry has a remarkable selling opportunity ahead." It is said that dress shirts can be given the "smooth, soft luxury of rayon...."

Burlington Mills is offering an all viscose, vat-dyed broadcloth, stabilized by Sanforized process, in 16 basic pastel shades, to retail at \$5.95. "The Burlington rayon broadcloth is not meant to be competitive to cotton," Mr. Doblin (head of Burlington's shirting division) explained, "but to supplement it."

Daily News Record, July 14, 1948, p. 13.

Shirt manufacturers complain that rayon fabrics are inferior to cottons for shirts because (1) finishes designed to stabilize fabrics have not put rayons in the washable class of cottons; (2) rayons do not wear well in comparison to even poorer quality cottons; (3), fabrics are limp compared to cotton; (4) acetates or blends containing acetates shine or crack when

ironed with excessive heat. Larger brand houses are said to be extremely cautious about the new development.

Daily News Record, July 13, 1948, p. 18

RAYON SUITS GAINING FAVOR

Next year will see more rayon summer suits, according to retailers. Price is the basic factor although pattern, porosity, and colors helped. In San Antonio, rayon suits from Hart, Schaffner & Marx sell for \$45, and Northcool suits for \$35. Suits by McGregor, 75% rayon and 25% cotton in a linen weave, also sold well.

Daily News Record, July 27, p. 8, July 29, p. 10.

WOOLEN MILL TO BE ESTABLISHED IN TEXAS

D. T. Strickland, president of the Brownwood Industrial Corp., states that a contract has been signed for the purchase by a large, unidentified Eastern woolen mill company of a building and six acres of land in the Camp Bowie warehouse area for the establishment of a woolen mill. Mr. Strickland added that the Eastern firm had contracted to buy the laundry building and a six-acre tract for a plant which will dye, comb, card and weave finished cloth from Texas wool. He said the mill will be the largest of the kind in Texas and would employ some 135 operatives.

Southern Textile News, July 24, 1948, p. 11.

TEXTILE RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

COTTON RESEARCH EXPENDITURES DETAILED

Between 4 and 5 million dollars was spent annually on cotton research by all agencies—federal, state, and private—prior to last year. R.M.A. cotton expenditures for 1948 total \$848,000, of which \$563,000 was for utilization research, including \$60,000 for fundamental fiber research, \$75,000 for new and improved products, \$72,000 for cottonseed and byproducts, \$53,000 for service testing, and \$303,000 for contract research.

Dr. Leonard K. Smith, Ninth Cotton Research Congress, Dallas, July 22-24, 1948.

DUPONT OPENS FINISHING LABORATORY

A new DuPont laboratory, devoted to research and development in the field of coated fabrics and allied products, was opened in Newburgh, N. Y. recently. The three-story building will permit the DuPont Company to enlarge the scope of its scientific research in a field in which it has been interested for nearly 40 years.

Southern Textile News, July 3, 1948, p. 5.

BASIC RESEARCH PROGRAM OF DYEING ANNOUNCED

A five-year research program on fundamentals of textile dyeing involving three phases, equilibrium phenomena, rate studies, and investigation of infra-red and x-ray techniques as a means of studying bonding of dye molecule in the fiber, has been started at Textile Research Institute. It is being supported by rayon producers, dyestuff manufacturers, dyers and finishers.

Daily News Record, July 16, 1948, p. 22.

PHILADELPHIA TEXTILE SCHOOL BEGINS CONSTRUCTION

Ground will be broken for Philadelphia Textile Institute's building on September 15th.

Daily News Record, July 22, p. 22.

STANDARD SOILED FABRICS PRODUCED BY U. S. TESTING CO.

U. S. Testing Co. has begun producing standard soiled fabrics, including cotton, wool, rayon, and perhaps nylon, for evaluating detergents and washing machines. The fabrics are soiled to a standard reflectance, and are available in an 18-inch width and are put up in 10-yard rolls.

Daily News Record, July 26, 1948, p.22.

COTTONSEED AND PEANUTS

VEGETABLE OIL PRICES DECLINE DURING JULY

Vegetable oil prices declined substantially during July but are still about double what they were under O.P.A. In an address before the Ninth Cotton Research Congress, Dallas, Dr. N. R. Whitney said that fats and oils were among the most unstable of all commodities in price.

Table 5.- Prices of vegetable oils and meals

| | July 1948 | June 1948 | May 1948 | July 1947 | September 1946 |
|---------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Cents per pound | | | | | |
| OILS 1/ | July 26 | June 28 | | | |
| Cottonseed oil..... | 25.0 | 32.0 | 34.6 | 22.2 | 12.5 |
| Peanut oil..... | 25.0 | 33.0 | 33.2 | 22.0 | 13.0 |
| Soybean oil..... | 21.5 | 25.5 | 26.3 | 17.2 | 11.8 |
| Corn oil..... | 23.5 | 33.0 | 33.5 | 22.2 | 12.8 |
| Coconut oil 2/..... | 20.0 | 25.0 | 28.2 | 14.3 | 11.1 |
| Linseed oil 3/..... | 29.0 | 29.4 | 29.0 | 30.2 | 16.6 |
| Tung oil 4/..... | 22.5 | 24.0 | 25.8 | 24.1 | 39.0 |
| Dollars per ton | | | | | |
| MEALS 5/ | July 24 | | | | |
| Cottonseed meal 6/ | 82.00 | 86.60 | 80.55 | 79.45 | 62.75 |
| Peanut Meal 7/ | 82.00 | 80.60 | 81.60 | 80.45 | 67.25 |
| Soybean meal 8/ | 90.50 | 93.25 | 86.60 | 89.75 | 66.00 |
| Coconut meal 9/ | 93.00 | 92.00 | 90.10 | 75.10 | 59.70 |
| Linseed meal 10/ | 65.00 | 73.25 | 71.25 | 78.40 | 59.25 |

1/ Crude, tanks, f.o.b. mills except noted. From Oil Paint and Drug Reporter (daily quotations) and from Fats and Oils Situation, BAE (monthly quotations).

2/ Crude, tanks, Pacific Coast.

3/ Raw, drums, carlots, N.Y.

4/ Drums, carlots, N.Y.

5/ Bagged carlots, as given in Feedstuffs (daily quotations) and Feed Situation, BAE (monthly quotations).

6/ 41 percent protein, Memphis.

(ton, BAE (monthly quotations)).

7/ 45 percent protein, S. E. Mills.

8/ 41 percent protein, Chicago

9/ 19 percent protein, Los Angeles.

10/ 32 percent protein, Minneapolis, prior to May 1947; 34 percent protein after that date.

MARGARINE USE CLIMBS: COTTONSEED OIL BECOMES INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT IN MARGARINE

Butter consumption per person in the United States has declined from 16.3 pounds in 1940 to 8.8 pounds, annual basis, during Jan. - Mar. 1948. In contrast, margarine consumption per person has climbed from 2.4 pounds in 1940 to 6.4 pounds, annual basis, during Jan. - Mar. 1948.

Domestic vegetable oils in 1947 accounted for 95% of the total fats and oils used in margarine, as compared with 70% in 1937-41. Cottonseed oil's percentage of the total fats and oils used in margarine has been steadily climbing, comprising 66% in Jan. - Mar. 1948, as compared with 53% in 1947 and 47% in 1937-41. During the first quarter of 1948, margarine replaced salad oil as the most important use of cottonseed oil.

Fats and Oils Situation, BAE, July 15, 1947
Facts for Industry, Fats and Oils, Bureau of the Census, June 4, 1948.

TEXAS COLLEGE NOW HAS OIL SEED INSTITUTE

Texas A. & M. College now has an institute of Oil Seed Technology through which will be channeled all resources at the college to bear upon the problems of extracting and using oil from seeds. Twelve college departments and divisions will participate in the work of the institute. The institute is headed by J. D. Lindsay, who also heads the department of chemical engineering.

Cotton Trade Journal, July 2, 1948, p. 4.

U. S. PEANUT ACREAGE DOWN SLIGHTLY

Total U. S. Peanut acreage on July 1st, 1948, was 4,290,000 acres as compared with 4,375,000 acres on July 1st, 1947. Last year 2,188 million pounds of peanuts were picked and threshed from the 3,389,000 harvested acreage. Peanut acreage this year was up 57,600 acres over last year in Georgia, but down 91,000 acres in Texas, and down 35,000 acres in Oklahoma. Only small changes elsewhere.

Crops and Markets, July 9, 1948, p. 55.

BRITISH PEANUT VENTURE IN AFRICA MOVES FORWARD

Last year the British launched a \$96 million project for mechanized peanut growing in Tanganyika, East Africa. A total of 150,000 acres was to be planted by last year but only one-tenth of that has been cleared and only one-twentieth planted. Recently a British West African Oil Seeds Mission recommended that some 5 million acres on the West Coast of Africa should be developed as "Operations Peanuts II" at a cost of \$100 million. Some 2.7 million acres would eventually be planted to groundnuts in northern Nigeria, the Gold Coast, and Gambia—if 3 years of experimental crops prove successful. It is figured that this would "trim Britain's fats and oils bill by at least \$55 million a year." This is based on an original estimate of \$60 and the cost of buying peanuts on open market, when estimate was made of \$128 a ton. West African Governments think, however, that it would cost considerably more than the experts estimate. For the West African project, experts propose a "tractor unit," a 600-acre block of undeveloped land which will employ 20 families, including 200 acres planted to peanuts, 200 to Guinean corn or millet, and the last third to grass, in a rotation system.

Transport has been the big bottleneck in East Africa, but progress is being made. Labor supply has proved to be less of a problem than expected.

Wall Street Journal, July 13, 1948, p.1.

SWEETPOTATOES

SWEETPOTATO PRODUCTION DECLINES

Planted acreage of sweetpotatoes in the United States declined from 617,500 acres on July 1, 1947 to 546,500 acres on July 1, 1948. Indicated production this year is 49.9 million bushels, or 13% less than the 57.2 million bushels produced last year. There were proportionate declines in the important sweetpotato states.

Crop Production, July 9, 1948, p. 69.

LINTERS AND CELLULOSE

DISSOLVING WOOD PULP PRICE RAISED ON JULY 15TH

The price of dissolving wood pulp was adjusted upward \$7.00 per ton for viscose grades and \$8.00 per ton for the acetate and cupra grades on July 15th. The price of purified linters remained unchanged from May to June.

Table 6.- Average annual prices of purified linters and dissolving wood pulp, 1946-47, and monthly quotations February - July 1948
(Cents per pound)

| | | | | Wood pulp 2/ | |
|---------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| | Purified linters 1/ | Standard viscose grade | High-Tenacity viscose grade | | Acetate & cupra grade |
| 1946..... | 9.50 | 5.60 | 5.80 | | 6.20 |
| 1947..... | 16.30 | 7.00 | 7.40 | | 8.00 |
| 1948, February..... | 13.00 | 7.45 | 7.90 | | 8.60 |
| 1948, March..... | 12.25 | 7.65 | 8.12 | | 8.85 |
| 1948, April..... | 12.25 | 7.85 | 8.35 | | 9.10 |
| 1948, May..... | 12.60 | 7.85 | 8.35 | | 9.10 |
| 1948, June..... | 12.60 | 7.85 | 8.35 | | 9.10 |
| 1948, July 15..... | - | 8.20 | 8.70 | | 9.50 |

1/ Weighted averages, 1946-47. Compiled from letters from a producer. F.O.B. pulp plant.

2/ Average of average monthly prices, 1946-47. Compiled from Rayon Organor and from letters to us from producer. Wood pulp prices are F.O.B. domestic producing mill, full freight allowed, and 3% transportation tax allowed, December 1, 1947 on; freight equalized with that Atlantic or Gulf port carrying lowest backhaul rate to destination plus 3% of backhaul charges, prior to December 1st.

DISSOLVING PULP SUPPLIES SLIGHTLY HIGHER THAN IN 1947

Domestic production of dissolving wood pulp is running slightly ahead of last year, as is the total amount made available for domestic consumption.

Table 7.- Dissolving wood pulp: Production, exports, imports, and quantities made available for consumption, United States, 1939-1948

| Year | Domestic production 1/ | Imports 2/ | Exports 2/ | Available for domestic consumption 3/ |
|-----------------|---------------------------|---------------|---------------|--|
| 1939 | 4/ | 88,052 | 48,232 | 4/ |
| 1945 | 4/ | 143,802 | 13,033 | 4/ |
| 1946 | 4/ | 202,192 | 8,491 | 4/ |
| 1947 | 324,927 | 248,606 | 10,389 | 563,144 |
| 1947, Jan.-Apr. | 109,905 | 74,969 | 2,585 | 182,289 |
| May | 27,450 | 19,616 | 1,776 | 45,290 |
| 1948, Jan.-Apr. | 113,139 | 76,836 | 3,379 | 191,596 |
| May | 33,175 | - | - | - |

1/ Sulphite, bleached, dissolving grades. From Facts for Industry, Pulp and Paper Manufactures, Bureau of the Census.

2/ Sulphite, bleached, rayon and special chemical grades. Data from foreign commerce statistics of the United States, Census Bureau.

3/ Production plus imports less exports.

4/ No data.

CELANESE'S NEW PLANT TO PRODUCE 62,000 TONS OF PULP ANNUALLY

Celanese's new plant at Watson Island, B. C., will produce 62,000 tons of dissolving wood pulp per year and is estimated to cost \$25,370,000. (Thus the capital cost is 20 cents per annual pound of pulp.) It will be ready for operation in Summer 1950.

Daily News Record July 14, 1948, p. 3.

SURVEYS MADE FOR NEW PULP AND RAYON PLANTS IN SOUTH

Several groups are surveying the Southern states for sites suitable for erection of a dissolving pulp plant and construction of a rayon plant. Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina are considered most attractive, but thus far no tracts of woodland adequate to supply a pulp mill have been found. An official of Continental Synthetic Textiles, Inc., agent for Snia Viscosa stated that the rumors that the Italian rayon company plans to construct a plant in the United States and is making surveys to this end, are presently untrue. But, he added, that there is a possibility that in time Snia Viscosa may construct a rayon plant in this country. A new "United Rayon Corp" is one of the groups negotiating for various rayon yarn plant sites in the South.

Journal of Commerce, July 26, 1948, p. 10.

RESEARCH UNDERWAY TO USE HARD WOODS FOR DISSOLVING PULP

The Forest Products Laboratory is working with the DuPont Company in the preparation of alpha-cellulose pulps for rayon from hard woods by the Kraft process. It appears that this process will be useful in making tire-cord rayon. The Laboratory has been using prehydrolysis but thinks this step may be unnecessary.

June 9, 1948

JUTE SOURCE OF CELLULOSE

Waste jute and jute products have been found to be a suitable source of supply for alpha cellulose, from research conducted by the Indian Central Jute Committee's laboratories in Calcutta.

Daily Mill Stock Reporter, July 27, 1948, p. 8.

ALASKAN PULP VENTURE MOVES FORWARD

On August 2, the Forest Service was reported ready to accept an only qualifying bid for the purchase of 1.5 billion cubic feet of Sitka spruce and Western hemlock in a 300-mile long strip of the Tongass National Forest in southeastern Alaska, near Ketchikan. The bid was from the Ketchikan Pulp & Paper Co., a new affiliate of Puget Sound Pulp and Paper Co., which a month ago took up an option on a pulp site near Ketchikan. It will take two years, cost \$25 million to \$30 million, to get the first pulp mill, which will employ 1,200 workers, into operation. All timber is within six miles of waterways with "dozens of undeveloped water sites" available in the vicinity. It is reported that sulphite paper pulp will be produced—and that the plant will have a capacity of 525 tons per day.

Wall Street Journal, Aug. 2, 1948, p. 1.

(Development of an Alaskan dissolving pulp industry has been reported to be underway for some time. It is said that pulp will be transported by water to Prince Rupert, B. C., where it will move eastward over Canadian railroads at transcontinental rates.)

